

68TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT  
No. 1617

**AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO WAIVE ONE-HALF OF THE GRAZING FEES FOR THE USE OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS**

FEBRUARY 26, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HAUGEN, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

**REPORT**

[To accompany H. J. Res. 375]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 375), authorizing and directing the Secretary of Agriculture to waive one-half of the grazing fees for the use of the national forests during the calendar year 1925, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, in his discretion, under regulations to be prescribed by him, to waive any part of or all requirements in respect of grazing fees for the use of national forests in drought-stricken regions during the calendar year 1925 or any part of such calendar year.

Livestock producers in portions of the Western States, and particularly in the Southwest, face a season in which it appears probable that serious and exceptional drought conditions will prevail. It is probable that in such drought-stricken areas the losses among range cattle will be exceptionally severe; that the condition of the surviving livestock will be abnormally poor, thus rendering normal marketing difficult or impossible and the returns therefrom abnormally low; that calf and lamb crops will be short; and that livestock producers will be compelled to incur exceptional expenditures for the purchase of feed in order to carry their herds through the year. The situation may be a serious one not only for the livestock producers but for the banks and other institutions which finance their operations.

To the extent that the livestock in such drought-stricken regions is grazed upon the national forests, it is believed that the Federal Government may equitably and profitably extend relief through the

remission of part or all of the fees normally charged for grazing upon the national forests during 1925. The Department of Agriculture, in which the supervision and administration of grazing on the national forests is vested, regards this form of relief as desirable in the regions and localities where the occurrence of serious drought conditions shall have been ascertained by due and proper investigation. The authority now vested in the Department of Agriculture to administer grazing on the national forests is undoubtedly sufficient to extend relief through the remission of a portion or all of the grazing fees in accordance with suitable regulations; but it is deemed desirable and appropriate that a policy looking to this end be affirmed by the Congress.

